



Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

PUBLISHED BY URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY INC. "IN THE TRADITION OF JANE JACOBS" DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is a bimonthly newsletter that highlights assets, history, events, and resources for and about Milwaukee neighborhoods. Residents and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to submit press releases on their events and successful programs. See back page for details.

December/January activities in Milwaukee neighborhoods (most under \$10)



Jackson Park neighborhood

Always defined by steadfast housing, from frontier days to post-World War II to current times

According to John Gurda in *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods*, the Jackson Park neighborhood is a community of "quiet streets and well-kept homes wrapped around the largest park on the city's South Side."

Today's neighborhood

The neighborhood's topography varies. Neighborhood streets follow a grid pattern south of Cleveland Avenue and west of Jackson Park, while north of Cleveland the streets shadow the winding path of the Kinnickinnic River Parkway. A principally residential area, area homes vary and include bungalows, Period Revivals, and much smaller, post-World War II Cape Cods and ranch homes—most distinguished by high quality construction. A few businesses are scattered along a six-block area on Oklahoma Avenue.



There is considerable green space along the Kinnickinnic River Parkway as well as in two parks. Jackson Park is a 113-acre-commons with a pond, basketball courts, football field, tennis courts, swimming pool, and pavilion. Manitoba Park is a small 3.5-acre square in the western section of the neighborhood.

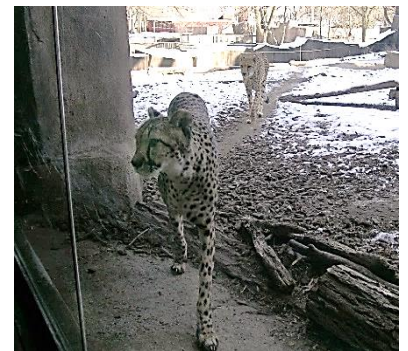
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Total of 39 events under the categories of museums, arts, family, kids, holiday events, neighborhood celebrations, get-moving events, walks/tours, food/farmers markets, and several more

FOR THE FAMILY

What? STORYTIME AT THE DOMES
When? Most Wed.s (see website (milwaukee-domes.org) 10:00 to 10:30am. *Where?* Mitchell Park, 524 S. Layton Blvd. *Description* Stories in Spanish and English. *Admission* Unk.

What? FAMILY FREE DAY AT THE ZOO
When? Sat., Dec. 7. *Where?* 10001 W. Bluemound Road.
Description Sponsored by North Shore Bank. *Admission* Free.



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ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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MUSEUMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

What? MILWAUKEE FIRE MUSEUM *When?* 1st Sun. of each month, 12 to 3pm, (except holidays). *Where?* 1516 W. Oklahoma Av. *Description* Opportunity to see exhibits and artifacts of the Milwaukee Fire Department back to the 1800s; stories of history of the department and fires. <http://city.milwaukee.gov/MUSEUMHISTORICALSOCIETY.htm#.VkoAEMArLIU> *Admission* Free. (See photos to right.)

What? CHARLES ALLIS ART MUSEUM *When?* Nov. through Apr.: Thu.s through Sun.s 10am to 5pm, reservations helpful as hours may vary. *Where?* 1801 N. Prospect Av. *Description* Self-guided tour of Tudor-style mansion of entrepreneur Charles Allis designed by Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler in early 20th century. <http://www.charlesallis.org/> *Admission* free to \$20; Free first Thu.

What? VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM *When?* Nov. through Apr.: Thu.s through Sun.s 10am to 5pm, reservations helpful as hours may vary. *Where?* 2220 N. Terrace Av. *Description* Self-guided tour of mansion informed by the design of a villa in Lombardy, Italy, complete with Renaissance Garden, and antique furnishings and artifacts. <https://www.villaterrace.org/> *Admission* free to \$20; Free first Thu.

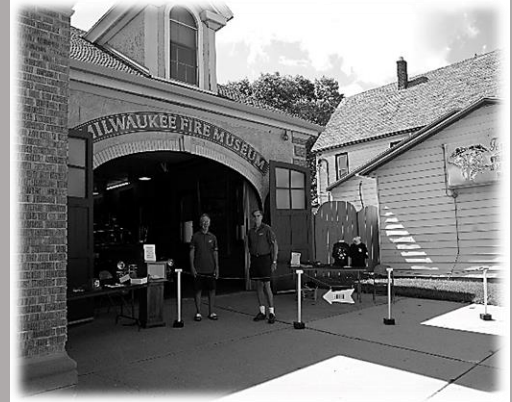
What? MILWAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *When?* Mon., Wed.s thru Sat.s, 9:30am to 5pm *Where?* 910 N. Martin Luther King Dr. *Description* Permanent and rotating exhibits of Milwaukee County's history plus a research library. Current exhibit, "Wisconsin Pop Culture." Permanent exhibit: "Meet MKE" sponsored by Visit Milwaukee. <http://www.milwaukeehistory.net/> *Admission* \$8, \$6 seniors, military, students; children < 12, and members free.

What? HAGGERTY MUSEUM OF ART *When?* Most days 10am to 4:30pm, Thu.s 10am-8pm; Sun.s, 12 to 5pm *Where?* Marquette campus at corner of 13th & Clybourn Sts. *Description* Permanent collections include Old Masters' prints, Ralph Steiner photos, Marc Chagall Bible series, Barbara Morgan photos, and Finnegan, Fishman, Tatalovich, and Rojzman collections. <http://www.marquette.edu/haggerty/> *Admission* Free.

What? GROHMANN MUSEUM *When?* Mon.s through Fri.s 9am to 5pm, Sat.s 12 to 6pm, Sun.s 1 to 4pm *Where?* 1000 N. Broadway *Description* More than 1,000 paintings and sculptures representing the long evolution of human work. <http://www.msoe.edu/about-msoe/grohmann-museum/> *Admission* \$5, \$3 students, seniors; free <12.

What? MILWAUKEE DISCOVERY WORLD *When?* Wed.s through Sun.s 9am to 4pm. *Where?* 500 N. Harbor Dr. *Description* A science and technology center and museum. <https://www.discoveryworld.org/> *Admission* \$14 to \$20.

Happening in the Polonia neighborhood



Enjoy a bit of Milwaukee fire history at the Fire Museum

1516 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Open first Sunday of every month
at 1 to 3pm

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ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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What? NORTHPOINT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM *When?* Sat.s and Sun.s 1 to 4pm *Where?* Northpoint Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Av. *Description* A historic, maritime experience, with artifacts related to the history of the Great Lakes. <http://northpoint-lighthouse.org/> *Admission* Free to \$8. (See photos to right.)

What? MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM FREE DAY *When?* Free 1ST Thu. each month *Where?* 800 W. Wells St. *Description* Chance to visit one of the premier natural history and science facilities, world- renowned for its exhibits, collections, ongoing scientific research and educational exhibits. www.mpm.edu/ *Admission* Free (on dates designated).

What? MITCHELL PARK DOMES *When?* Wed.s to Fri.s, 9am to 5pm; Sat.s, Sun.s 9am-4pm. *Where?* 524 S. Layton Blvd. *Description* A place to experience a desert oasis, a tropical jungle, and special floral gardens all in one visit. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/MitchellParkConserva10116.htm> *Admission* Free to \$8.

What? HARLEY-DAVIDSON MUSEUM *When?* Daily 10am to 5pm. *Where?* 400 W. Canal St. *Description* Exhibits on the history of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle. <https://www.harley-davidson.com/us/en/museum.html> *Admission* Free to \$22.

GAMES

What? BINGO *When?* Third Tue. of every month, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. *Where?* Bay View Community Center, 1320 E Oklahoma Ave. *Description* Game of bingo. *Admission* Unk.

ARTS, THEATRE, AND CRAFTS

What? WALKER'S POINT CENTER FOR THE ARTS *When?* 1 to 5pm during exhibitions, see website. *Where?* 839 S 5th St. *Description* Ongoing exhibitions in a community setting. <http://wpcma-milwaukee.org/> *Admission* Free to look.

What? ART BAR *When?* Daily 3pm to 12am. *Where?* 722 E. Burleigh St. *Description* Permanent and temporary art exhibits. <https://www.facebook.com/artbarmke/> *Admission* Adults, free to look.

What? GALLERY AT MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN *When?* Mon.s through Sat.s, 10am to 5pm. *Where?* 273 E. Erie St. *Description* Rotating exhibitions of renowned artists, MIAD students, and MIAD faculty. <http://www.miad.edu/> *Admission* Free.

What? GALLERY 218 *When?* Sat.s, 12 to 5pm. *Where?* 207 East Buffalo St. Suite 218. *Description* The cooperative gallery of the Walker's Point Artists Assoc., Inc. <https://gallery218.com/> *Admission* Free, donations welcome.

What? JAZZ GALLERY FOR THE ARTS *When?* Sat.s 12 to 5pm. *Where?* 926 E Center St. *Description* New exhibits every other month. <https://riverwestart.org/> *Admission* Free.

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Happening in the
Northpoint
neighborhood



Enjoy the seasons at
the Northpoint
Lighthouse
Museum

2650 N. Wahl Avenue
Open Saturdays and Sundays 1-
4pm

ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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What? VAR WEST GALLERY *When?* Thu.s through Sat.s, 11am to 4pm. *Where?* 423 W Pierce St. *Description* Focusing on exhibiting solo shows for emerging and established artists, including full bar for purchases during events. <https://www.varwestgallery.com/about> *Admission* Free to look.

What? TERRY MCCORMICK CONTEMPORARY FINE AND FOLK ART GALLERY *When?* Call (414) 264-6766 to visit. *Where?* 2522 N. 18th St. *Description* Contemporary art by the founder, Evelyn Patricia Terry, along with several friends whose work she exhibits. <https://www.facebook.com/terrymccormick-gallery/> *Admission* Free to look. (See photos to right.)

SPECTATOR SPORTS

What? MARQUETTE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL *When?* Nov. (regular season) *Where?* Al McGuire Center, 770 N. 12th St. *Description* Marquette University women's basketball games. <http://www.gomarquette.com/sports/w-baskbl/sched/marq-w-baskbl-sched.html> *Admission* Some tickets \$5 and \$10.

GET-MOVING ACTIVITIES

What? HANK AARON STATE TRAIL *When?* Daily. *Where?* Multiple access points; see map on website *Description* Opportunity to enjoy natural and urban views and walk or bike trail across Milwaukee, from the lakefront to 94th Pl. <http://hankaaronstatetrail.org/> *Admission* Free.

What? INDOOR SKATING *When?* Weekdays, check website for times. *Wilson Ice Arena (milwaukee.gov)* *Where?* Wilson Park Arena, 4001 S. 20th St. *Description* Indoor skating. *Wilson Ice Arena (milwaukee.gov)* *Admission* \$3.75 to \$6.75, skate rentals extra.

What? TEEN GROUP (Age 14 to 18). *When?* Tue.s, 2 to 3:30pm. *Where?* Bay View Community Center, 1320 E Oklahoma Av. *Description* Snacks, games, art, and more. *Admission* Free.

What? RUN/WALK TRACK AT THE PETTIT *When?* Hours vary, see website. *Where?* Pettit National Ice Center, 500 S. 84th St. *Description* Walk or run on 430-meter track with lockers and showers for \$1 extra at limited times. <http://thepettit.com/sports/run-walk-track/> *Admission* \$4.

What? PUBLIC ICE SKATING AT THE PETTIT *When?* Hours vary, see website. *Where?* Pettit National Ice Center, 500 S. 84th St. *Description* Indoor ice skating and skate rentals. <http://thepettit.com/public-skate/> *Admission* \$7.50, \$6.50 kids 13-15; \$5.50 kids 4-12 and seniors; free <4.

ECO/NATURE ACTIVITIES

What? EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—MENOMONEE VALLEY *When?* Most Tue.s 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Menomonee Valley, 3700 W. Pierce St. *Description* A walk for bird

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Happening in the North Division Neighborhood



Virtual tour of the Terry McCormick contemporary fine- and folk-art gallery

The work of Evelyn Patricia Terry and a tour of her neighborhood museum can be accessed at the following websites:

evelynpatriciaterry.com

and

[Virtual Tour: Terry McCormick Contemporary Fine and Folk Art Gallery.](#)

Above are examples from the series, Pastel Drawings, and Artists Books on the general website

ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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watchers of all levels to explore Three Bridges Park for birds. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission Free.*

What? EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—WASHINGTON *When?* Most Wed.s. 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St. *Description* A walk for bird watchers of all ability levels to walk through different habitats for birds. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission Free.* (See right.)

What? EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—RIVERSIDE *When?* Most Thu.s. 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Pl. *Description* A walk for bird watchers of all ability levels to explore different habitats for birds and other animals. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission Free.*

FOOD AND FARMERS MARKETS

What? WINTER FARMERS MARKET *When?* Nov. 9 to Jan. 25, 9am to 2pm; Jan. 27 to Apr. 13, 9am to 2pm. *Where?* 5305 W. Capitol Dr. *Description* Produce, bakery, canned goods, meat. *Admission Free.*

WALKING/STREETCAR TOURS

What? SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF VA GROUNDS *When?* Daily, daylight *Where?* Just north of Zablocki VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Av. *Description* A walk through the historic district which includes the Soldiers' Home, barracks building, old fire station, old hospital, Ward Memorial Theater, and more. <http://www.milwaukee.va.gov/visitors/campus.asp> *Admission Free.*

What? GUIDED TOUR OF BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT *When?* Reserve tour on website. *Where?* Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6th St. *Description* Opportunity to see and learn about one of the most beautiful churches in America. <http://the-basilica.org/visit> *Admission Free.*

What? UNGUIDED TOUR OF BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT *When?* Mon.s through Fri.s, 9am to 3pm *Where?* Visitor's Center, Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6th St *Description* Opportunity to see and learn about one of the most beautiful churches in America with informational exhibits on lower level. <http://the-basilica.org/> *Admission Free.*

What? THE HOP STREETCAR TOUR *When?* Most Saturdays at 1pm, see website. *Where?* 235 E Michigan St. *Description* Explore urban renewal from the edge of the Menomonee Valley to Downtown's Yankee Hill neighborhood. <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/> *Admission Free to \$16, preregistration required.*

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Happening in the
Washington Park
neighborhood



Early morning
birdwalk

Washington
Park
1859 N. 40th Street

ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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What? SKYWAUKEE TOUR *When?* Dec. 6 and 20, 1pm. *Where?* 161 W. Wisconsin Ave. *Description* Stroll through the skywalk system and learn about significant Milwaukee landmarks from a new angle—one story up! <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/> *Admission* Free to \$16, preregistration required.

What? SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF FOREST HOME CEMETERY *When?* Daily 8am-4:30pm *Where?* 2405 W. Forest Home *Description* Tour the beautiful Chapel Gardens, Landmark Chapel, and the Hall of History that tells the story of Milwaukee dignitaries, including European founders of Milwaukee, several mayors, major African American activists, and brewery tycoons. *Admission* Free.

What? WALK THROUGH MILWAUKEE'S LATINO HISTORY *When?* Daily *Where?* United Community Center, 1028 S. 9th St. *Description* Opportunity to learn about Latino history by visiting tannery and foundry exhibits, photos, and art inside the UCC building, and historical murals on two sides of Bruce Guadalupe School next door. <http://www.unitedcc.org/index.htm> *Admission* Free.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

What? CHRISTMAS IN THE WARD *When?* Fri., Dec. 6 beginning at 5:30pm *Where?* Third Ward's Catalano Square, 147 N. Broadway. *Description* Tree lighting, Santa, hot cocoa, live reindeer *Admission* Free.

Jane Jacobs on cities

Cities, like anything else, succeed by making the most of their assets. Dull, inert cities, it is true, do contain the seeds of their own destruction and little else. But lively, diverse, and intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, with energy enough to carry for problems and needs outside themselves.

From *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

Happening in the
Forest Home Hills
neighborhood



Self-guided tour of
Forest Home
Cemetery

2405 W. Forest Home
Avenue

HISTORY OF JACKSON PARK

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The Jackson Park neighborhood, like many in Milwaukee, was named after its park, which preceded the full development of the neighborhood.



Kinnickinnic River near 43rd & Jackson Park Dr



Jackson Park lagoon

Early populations

The first signs of European settlement in the area that would become the Jackson Park neighborhood were pioneer farmers that

settled along Forest Home Avenue in the mid to late 1800s. Forest Home at the time was the Janesville Plank Road, serving as a well-traveled toll road that was the major link between the developing city and the country. One of the farmers settling on the road was Richard Reynolds, a British military veteran. He owned 160 acres along Janesville Plank between today's 35th and 43rd Streets. On his land he farmed and built a hotel that was often used by early urbanites while traveling or just to spend a day in the countryside.

By the late 1800s a scattering of mainly Poles and Germans from the Old/Historic South Side began to migrate south and purchase land around Forest Home Avenue. Perhaps seeing the area as a future Milwaukee neighborhood, the city Park Commission purchased the northern half of the Reynolds farm to preserve forested space in 1907. The area was named Jackson Park for President Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States. Two years later the park became the beneficiary of the Spirit of Commerce zinc sculpture that had been at the entrance of the Chamber of Commerce building at Broadway and Michigan.

Milwaukee annexed most of today's Jackson Park neighborhood in 1927. More Poles and Germans from the Old South Side continued to migrate to the area in the late 1920s. Many were second and third generation Milwaukeeans who had achieved economic success and built some of the bungalows that still exist in the neighborhood. In 1927 the local Poles founded Blessed Sacrament Parish on South 40th Street and Oklahoma (see resident profile on the following page). In 1932, the local Germans built Jackson Park Lutheran Church on South 49th near Oklahoma with their own hands.

Development continued on the park, and electric lights, a pavilion, sports fields, and the beginning of a lagoon were added (the lagoon was completed later by the Civilian Conservation Corps). As the Great Depression began to effect Milwaukee, initiatives slowed to a halt.

The Jackson Park area was only sparsely populated when the Great Depression began. The neighborhood never developed a commercial corridor. Most residents could walk to a slightly greater variation of shops on South 27th Street just east of the Jackson Park boundaries (see a business listing of South 27th in 1935 in the Southgate neighborhood).

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HISTORY OF JACKSON PARK

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By the 1930s a scattering of businesses appeared along South 35th Street between Lincoln (just north of the neighborhood) and Morgan Avenues. Below is a list in 1937. See summary and notes below.

<i>Addresses on S. 35th in 1937</i>	<i>Names of businesses and organizations from the <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i>
2351	Arthur L. Pedersen Trucking
2432	Louis Bintzler Painter
2934	M & M Restaurant Supply Company
3512 w.s. corner	Mount Olivet Cemetery
3512 n.e. corner	Philip E. Schroeter Grocery

Summary and notes from census and other records:

- As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods prior to 1970, shopkeepers rarely had attended high school.
- Arthur Pedersen, with the trucking company, lived on S. 31st St. in 1940 with wife Eleanor and five children. Both of his parents were born in Norway. He'd completed the 6th grade.
- Louis Bintzler, the painter, lived on the same block as his painting shop with wife Pauline. He'd completed the 8th grade.
- M & M Restaurant Supply Company may have been owned by a Rudolph Mayer, but information is inconclusive.
- Mt. Olivet Cemetery was established by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in 1907. Today it is 72 acres with over 27,000 in-ground burials.
- Philip E. Schroeter, with the grocery store, lived on S. 33rd St. He later opened a print shop nearby. The son of a German immigrant, Philip had completed the 8th grade.

An example of resident profiles for the Jackson Park area in 1937 appears below.

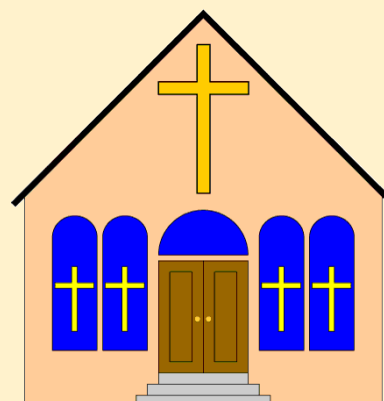
Jackson Park random residents (1930s)

Names selected randomly from the 1937 City Directory in the Jackson Park area (additional information was found in U.S. Census and other records)

Bernard M. Kobelinski and Stella Usterbowski

In 1937, Bernard Kobelinski, a Catholic priest, and Stella Usterbowski, the housekeeper, lived at the parsonage of Blessed Sacrament Congregation near 40th and Oklahoma.

Blessed Sacrament had been the church that the first-arriving Poles had built in the Jackson Park neighborhood in 1927. Father Kobelinski, the parish priest, was 43 at the time and Stella was 52.



Very little could be found on Stella except that she was Wisconsin-born and the daughter of Polish immigrants. She apparently never married. Census records suggest that she may have later moved in with her elderly father in the 1940s.

Father Kobelinski was also a Wisconsin-born child of Polish immigrants. His parents were John Kobelinski and Josepha Gankowska. He had many accomplishments. In his lifetime he earned a PhD and received the honorary title of Monsignor (often given to someone rendering valuable services to the Church). While serving the Jackson Park neighborhood, Father Kobelinski traveled abroad at least twice, probably representing the Church in an official capacity. One of the trips involved a stop in Southampton, England—but this could have been a transfer spot. The destination of the second trip is not known.

At age 26, Father Kobelinski served in another parish under an older priest, Father Waclaw Kruszka. Kruszka was the brother of Michal Kruszka, the editor of the largest Polish newspaper outside of Poland--the Milwaukee-based *Kuryer Polski*. The Kruszka brothers had spent most of their adult lives advocating for the promotion of Polish priests in the German-dominated archdiocese in Milwaukee. This created a 25-year battle with the local archbishop, Swiss-born Sebastian Messmer. Father Waclaw Kruszka had traveled to Rome on numerous occasions to take the case to the Vatican.

Sometime after 1940, an acclaimed musician from the Walker's Point neighborhood

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JACKSON PARK HISTORY

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moved his family into the Jackson Park neighborhood where the family remained until the mid-1970s. See the musician's profile below.

Spotlight on Jackson Park resident (1940s)

(Photos and other information found on public records at Ancestry.com and other public records)

Louis G. Bashell, "Milwaukee's Polka King"



Louis ("Louie") Bashell was raised in the Walker's Point neighborhood. He was born on July, 1, 1914 while his family was living on Bruce Street (then Park Place). His parents, Joe and Antonia (nee Samsa) Bashell were immigrants from Slovenia. Louie took up the accordion at age 7 and began playing it at his parents' tavern in the neighborhood—a practice he

continued for 50 years. As a teen, he

honed his skills in the music program of Boy's Tech High School (above photo is him returning to the school for an event from Boy's Tech yearbook). His musical genre was the polka--Slovenian style. The Bashell family later moved to 13th and Walker, again in the Walker's Point neighborhood.

While Bashell's acclaimed professional career began in the Walker's Point neighborhood, it reached its heights after he and his wife, Stephine A. Starich, moved to the Jackson Park neighborhood at 5521 W. Jackson Park Drive. While living in Walker's Point, he formed a trio with himself, a drummer, and a saxophone player. Later, in the 1940s, Bashell formed a five-piece band. One of their recordings, the Slovenian folk song, "Zidana Marela," ("Silk Umbrella"), sold out as fast as the band could make the records. This resulted in a contract with RCA Victor.

Bashell remained a Wisconsinite and a family man throughout his career. When RCA wanted Bashell to promote the records on a lengthy national tour, he refused, insisting that he wanted to be close to his wife and children. He continued to focus his career on the local scene, becoming known as "Milwaukee's Polka King."

While living in the Jackson Park neighborhood, and later in Greendale, he received numerous awards. These included six nominations for polka awards by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry, an induction into the Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame, and a lifetime achievement award from the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame. His most significant award was when he became Wisconsin's first resident to receive a National Heritage Fellowship grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, becoming a National Heritage Fellow.

Having conducted his own polka band for more than seven decades, Bushell died of complications from pneumonia in 2008. He was interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Milwaukee.



Mitchell Manor Senior Living Community on border between West Allis & Jackson Park

Arrival of Latinos

Latinos (mainly Mexicans) began to settle on the near South Side in the 1920s and slowly migrated south into the Polish areas. Since the 1970s, the Mexican community all over the South Side, including Jackson Park, grew dramatically, and other Latinos have arrived from the Caribbean and Central and South America.

A number of push-pull factors influenced the population changes. During the early 1900s Mexican immigration to the United States expanded because of worsening economic conditions in Mexico. A large wave of Mexicans also left the country during the political and economic turmoil created by the Mexican Revolution of 1910. In addition, both Mexicans and Puerto Ricans were often recruited by local industries to fill workplace needs. Beginning in 1917, the US government implemented a series of immigration restriction policies to curb the influx of Mexicans, mainly in response to local claims that Mexicans (who often worked for low wages) were taking jobs away from 'true' Americans.

But they found a place to fit in. Latinos—particularly Mexicans--were able to settle successfully alongside the Poles in particular because they shared so many traits in common. These included the Catholic faith, the focus on the Madonna figure, polka music

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JACKSON PARK HISTORY

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traditions, similarities in childrearing and eldercare practices, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Jackson Park Community Association

Something else was happening in the latter decades of the 20th century. Residents began to organize to ensure the health and enrichment of their neighborhood. Much of the organizing began in the 1970s when neighbors bonded to oppose a planned freeway that would remove a western edge of their park. This battle was won in 1983, just after the formal founding of the Jackson Park Community Association.

Just a few years later the Association began raising funds for the restoration of the Spirit of Commerce sculpture in the park. The zinc statue was fully restored and dedicated in 1991.



Spirit of Commerce in Jackson Park

Current populations

Today, the sizable Jackson Park neighborhood has just over 8,000 residents. Of these, approximately half still claim Polish or German ancestry. Nearly 1 in 6 are Latinos--mostly of Mexican ancestry. An additional 1 in 20 each are African Americans and Asians (mostly Hmong/Lao with a scattering of Asian Indians). The remaining population is comprised of people of multiple backgrounds. The neighborhood skews slightly older than Milwaukee in general, with nearly 3 in 10 residents aged 45 to 64.

Just over half of the Jackson Park residents live in upper middle- and middle-income households, with annual incomes between \$50,001 and \$150,000. It is also a well-educated

neighborhood with approximately 4 in 10 residents having earned bachelor's or graduate degrees. The occupations cited most often by residents are in the fields of administration, production, and food service.

"Jackson Park, to me, is a hidden gem and one of the city's best kept secret neighborhoods. Like many of our neighbors, we purchased our home in the Jackson Park neighborhood and then a few years later purchased our second home in the neighborhood just a few blocks away from my husband's parents. It's common to see multi-generations living in the neighborhood. We all look out for each other, whether it's helping with shoveling during big snows or finding a lost pet. We love everything from the little libraries to the surrounding parks and bike trails. Many neighbors volunteer assisting with the active Jackson Park Community Association with all the social offerings from the Neighborhood Watch to Easter Egg Hunt and Night Time Trick or Treating to the Jackson Park Farmers Market, August Nights Music in the Park and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. It's such a friendly place where neighbors wave to each other, get to know each other and share their talents. I can't imagine any better place to call home."

--Marsha Voeltner

Home ownership is high in Jackson Park. Approximately 6 in 10 property units in the neighborhood are owned. Select costs for home ownership (e.g., mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, taxes, insurance) are relatively high by Milwaukee standards, with just over 4 in 10 homes costing between \$1,501 and \$2,000 a month. Rents are reasonable with nearly 9 in 10 units going for \$501 to \$1,000 a month.



43rd St. & Jackson Park Dr.

The Jackson Park Community Association still has a strong presence in the neighborhood. The organization promotes after-

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JACKSON PARK HISTORY

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school and athletic youth programs, block watch and park watch groups, safe community and holiday activities for families, and pride and participation in the community by residents and business owners.

INTERESTING FEATURES

- **Blessed Sacrament Congregation**, at 3100 S. 41st St., the early church of neighborhood Polish Catholics.
- **Mitchell Manor Senior Living Community**, at 5301 W. Lincoln, on the West Allis/Jackson Park border, named after the country home of the famed Mitchell family.



Mitchell Manor Senior Living Community (west side)

- **Spirit of Commerce** in Jackson Park, a zinc sculpture by German artist Gustav Haug, recently restored.
- **Jackson Park Lutheran Church**, at 45th and Oklahoma, a congregation founded by early arriving Germans in the neighborhood.



Manitoba Park



Homes on 43rd & Manitoba

Jane Jacobs on cities

Cities, like anything else, succeed by making the most of their assets.

Dull, inert cities, it is true, do contain the seeds of their own destruction and little else. But lively, diverse, and intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, with energy enough to carry for problems and needs outside themselves.

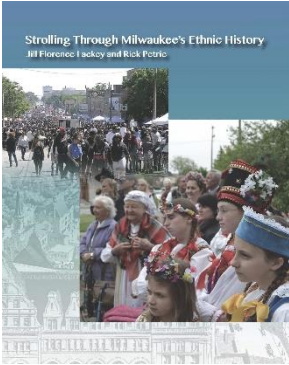
Jane Jacobs on neighborhood parks

Neighborhood parks fail to substitute in any way for plentiful city diversity. Those that are successful *never* serve as barriers or as interruptions to the intricate functioning of the city around them. Rather, they help to knit together diverse surrounding functions by giving them a pleasant joint facility.

From The Death and Life of Great American Cities.



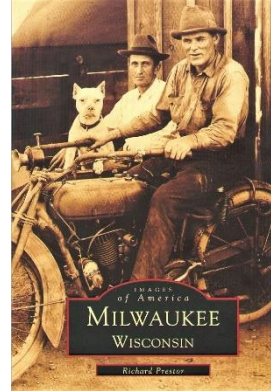
Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods



Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

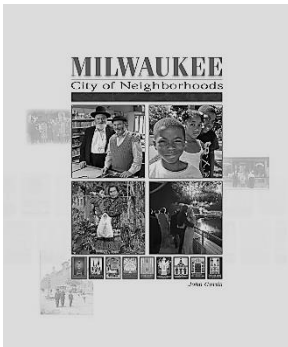
This latest work provides an “up close and personal” look at local ethnic life by directing readers to the neighborhoods and venues where the groups left their marks. It brings readers directly into their experiences, whether it involves strolling through the neighborhoods they built or participating in contemporary ethnic activities. “Strolling . . . is an intriguing guide to the ethnic history in our midst and a colorful reminder that Milwaukee has always been a city of newcomers.” -John-Gurda. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



Milwaukee Wisconsin

By Richard Prestor

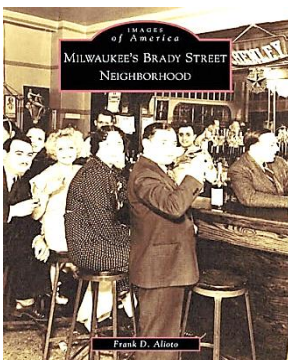
Over the years, Prestor has amassed a fascinating collection of historic photographs of Milwaukee. On many personal levels, the reader will see how people lived, worked, and entertained themselves. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/>



Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods

By John Gurda

Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods is the most comprehensive account of grassroots Milwaukee ever published. Richly illustrated, engagingly written, and organized for maximum ease of use, the book is a fine-grained introduction to the Milwaukee community, and its communities, that will endure as a standard work for years to come. <https://historicismilwaukee.org/milwaukee-city-of-neighborhoods/>.

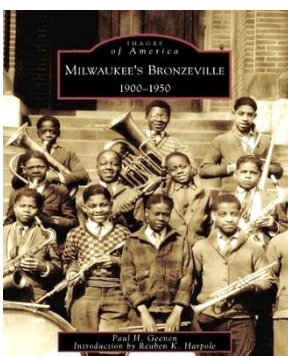


Milwaukee's Brady Street Neighborhood

By Frank D. Alioto

Milwaukee's Brady Street neighborhood began in the mid-19th century as a crossroads between middle-class Yankees from the east and early German settlers. Polish and Italian immigrants soon followed, working the mills, tanneries, and brewers that lined the riverbank. The hippies arrived in the 1960s. By the 1980s the area fell into blight, neglect and decay. Now, a true model for new urbanism, the Brady Street neighborhood is the midst of a renaissance. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738551746>

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Milwaukee's Bronzeville: 1900-1950

By Paul H. Geenen, Introduction by Rueben Harpole

With the migration of African American sharecroppers to northern cities in the first half of the 20th century, the African American population of Milwaukee grew from fewer than 1,000 in 1900 to nearly 22,000 by 1950. Most settled along Walnut Street, an area that came to be known as Milwaukee's Bronzeville, a thriving residential, business, and entertainment community. Bronzeville is remembered by African American elders as a good place to grow up. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738540610>

The dramatic gift of one author

Mystery writer and Milwaukee native, Sienna Jacks, is creating a series of novels that take place in Milwaukee neighborhoods called “The Milwaukee Series.”

Mystery novels that are currently available or will eventually be included in this series will take place in these Milwaukee neighborhoods:

- Brady Street
- Bronzeville/Brewer's Hill
- Lincoln Village
- Walker's Point
- Riverwest

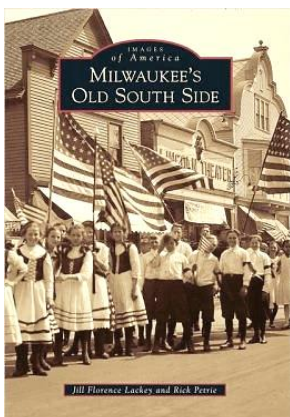
Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at Amazon.com

To enjoy wonderful reading and to contribute to neighborhood museums and exhibits, purchase the Jacks' books from the publisher at

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>



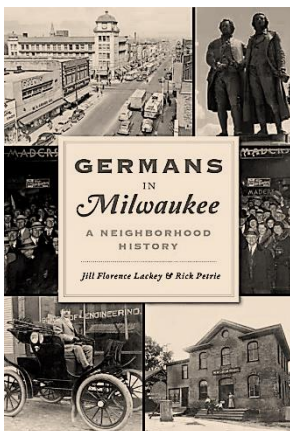
Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods (Cont.)



Milwaukee's Old South Side

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

In the late 1800s, the Old South Side was developed by immigrant Poles, who became the dominant population for over 100 years. While other Milwaukee ethnic neighborhoods gradually dissipated in the mid-20th century because of assimilation pressures, freeway building, or urban renewal programs, the Old South Side remained solidly Polish. A survey nearly a half century later revealed that people of 110 national backgrounds now lived in the Old South Side, with the three largest groups being Mexicans, Poles, and American Indians. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738590691>



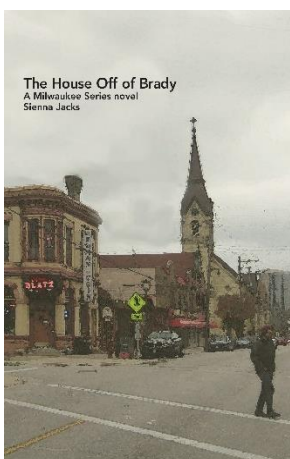
Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

Germans dominated Milwaukee like no other large American city. Their presence inhabits the city's neighborhoods, from its buildings and place names to its parklands and statuary. Their influence also lives in the memories shared by local residents. A small Milwaukee neighborhood south of Miller Valley was christened after a farmer's pigs, and a busboy turned beer baron built the famous Pabst Brewery in West Town. A ghost is said to haunt the old Blatz Brewing compound. And the remains of the early tanning industry can still be seen in Walker's Point. Compiling more than 1,200 interviews, authors Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie share these ground-level perspectives of the lasting German influence on the Cream City. www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286.

spectives of the lasting German influence on the Cream City. www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286.

Fiction



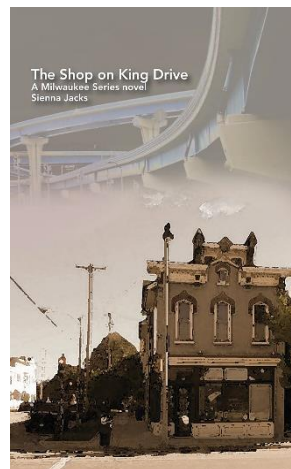
The House Off of Brady A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

Two young anthropologists, trying to convince a local nonprofit to sponsor a neighborhood house museum, must show that the historical occupants of the house were representative of Milwaukee's Brady Street, and that they project positive images for the neighborhood. Their efforts are boosted by a personal journal left behind by one of the home's occupants--Giuseppe Russo. But as the young anthropologists translate and transcribe the journal, they learn that Giuseppe had been banished from his former community in the Third Ward. Are they about to stumble on information that could kill the project—or something perhaps even worse? <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>

The Shop on King Drive A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

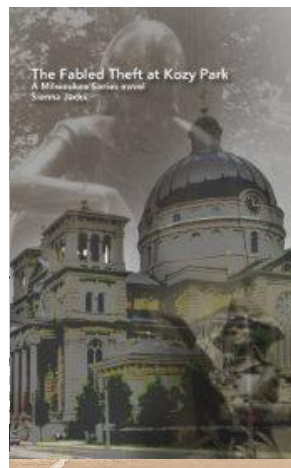


A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history, confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. While interviewing survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. The lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>

The Fabled Theft at Kozy Park A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

The anthropologists at City Anthropology were asked to use their research skills to look into a man's confession that might crack the longest unsolved mystery on Milwaukee's old South Side—the theft of the squirrel lady statue at Kozy Park. According to reports, the man Raf (now deceased) also implicated members of a local Polish club with an



agenda of removing non-Polish influences from the neighborhood. Assigned to the project, Enid and Meyer are baffled by the information they are getting from those who witnessed the confession, little of which supports Raf's story. Further inquiry points to events surrounding Raf's stepson. Who really was he and why did he inexplicably appear on the scene all those years ago? Their quest for answers leads them to the club in question, but with unexpected results. The ultimate mystery they must solve is the true reason why Raf made this confession and steered them to a list of alleged conspirators.

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com>

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is published bimonthly by Urban Anthropology Inc. and is managed by volunteer anthropologists. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer neighborhood groups and individuals opportunities to share news and information about their neighborhoods. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Jill Florence Lackey.

Subscriptions

The newsletter is emailed to anyone wishing to receive it. If you wish your email or that of a friend to be added to the subscriber list, send the email addresses to JFLanthropologist@currently.com and indicate the name of this publication.

Submitting events

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is interested in events from individuals, businesses, and organizations that have a neighborhood appeal. These can include block parties, church picnics, local music festivals, sports on the block, get-moving activities that take place outdoors, and art and theatre events involving neighborhoods. All event submissions should include a one-sentence description, date and time, location, and website or phone number for additional information. Photos may also be submitted.

Submitting stories/press releases on neighborhoods

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, stories should always focus on assets of neighborhoods. They must be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints. We will write the stories for you if you simply send us a list of the information that you want included. A photo is always required.

Submission deadlines

Submit events or stories by the 25th of the month preceding publication. Publication dates are on the 1st day of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please send your stories to Dr. Jill at JFLanthropologist@currently.com.

Now live . . .

Website on 191 Milwaukee neighborhoods

Links on each neighborhood include:

- *6 to 35 pages of information*
- *Brief neighborhood description*
- *Population-focused history (including ethnic roots)*
- *Snapshots of commercial districts of the past*
- *Quotes from residents*
- *Quotes from oral histories (where available)*
- *Low cost nearby outings for families*
- *Demographics of current neighborhood*
- *Photos of neighborhood*

The website currently includes ALL 191 of the neighborhoods, courtesy of Urban Anthropology Inc.

<http://neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org/>